

NEW RETIREMENT WORKSHOPS NOW AVAILABLE

PERSI is pleased to announce the availability of two new workshops for your employees. To make participation easy, these workshops are conducted onsite at employer locations. Both are provided at no cost and run about an hour and a half... so they won't disrupt your daily operations too much. Making sure your employees understand their PERSI benefits and allowing them time to learn about retirement planning is one of the best things you'll ever do for them.

Planning for the Beach

This workshop arms members with the knowledge to begin the retirement planning process... something nearly 87 percent of Americans fail to do for themselves. Since the workshop goes into detail about the PERSI Base Plan (pension), it will be beneficial to the majority of your employees. The discussion about starting to save early in your career vs. starting later in life should also prove useful to nearly everyone.

The benefits of participating in the Choice Plan 401(k) are covered in detail during this workshop. Existing 401(k) participants will better understand their options, and non-participants will gain an understanding of why it makes sense to have a personal retirement savings plan. Your employees will also learn how to avoid common pitfalls that could derail their existing retirement plans, such as improper use of credit cards or living beyond their means. The workshop also includes discussion on the time-value of money, dollar cost averaging, and asset allocation. For many people these issues seem complicated, but with proper education they can be simplified and made easier to understand.

- Other workshop topics include:
 - Credit card basics
 - Debt elimination
 - Calculating present and future needs
 - Retirement assessment

A PERSI trainer, either Mike Mitchell or Graydon Wood, will take your staff through an exercise to help them determine and eventually achieve their retirement goals. This is a fun and informative education session using easy-to-follow steps for alleviating concerns regarding financial security in retirement.

Cruisin' to the Beach

Participants in this workshop will quickly review the PERSI Base plan (pension) and the Choice Plan 401(k) before transitioning to advanced financial planning techniques. The goal is to help your employees fine-tune the skills they'll need to remain focused and on track to attain a comfortable retirement. The appropriate use of tax and income deferral instruments will be discussed and explained. The workshop also includes a hands-on exercise dealing with asset allocation.

- Other workshop topics include:
 - Getting started
 - Investment vehicle choices and comparisons
 - 401(k)
 - 457
 - 403(b)
 - Traditional and Roth IRAs
 - Financial basics
 - Evaluating costs vs. historical returns
 - Indexes
 - Growth
 - Value
 - Small, mid, and large cap
 - Resources

To schedule one or both of these new workshops for your employees, simply call Mike at (208) 287-9291 or Graydon at (208) 287-9292. If you or your employees want to know more about the workshops, visit the PERSI Web site at www.persi.idaho.gov.

Retirement's a Beach

PERSI took time near the end of 2007 to re-evaluate its half-day retirement workshop. After careful review of comment cards from members, it was decided the workshop should be extended by 2 hours. This additional time allows the PERSI trainers to go into more detail on several retirement topics, particularly Social Security and Medicare.

Not Everything Has Changed

The Retirement's a Beach workshop still targets PERSI members within 5-10 years of retiring. The newly formatted 6-hour workshops are held at offsite locations throughout the state and conducted throughout the year just like before. A Retirement Specialist is also still available at each workshop to answer member questions.

As in previous years, the workshops provide details about the Base Plan (pension) and the decisions your employees will need to make before they retire. The workshops still cover Choice Plan 401(k) benefits, health care options, wills, trusts, estate planning, tax implications of retirement income, and powers of attorney. Attendees will continue to receive a workbook and a retirement estimate at the workshops. Spouses of members are welcome to attend a workshop, but must be registered. If your employees want to attend a Retirement's a Beach workshop they can register online via the PERSI Web site at www.persi.idaho.gov.

Online Registration

Online registration is simple. Once a member is

on the PERSI Web site, they should click on the "Education" tab on the Home Page, then click on "Online Registration" on the drop-down menu. Next they should scroll down to the schedule for the Retirement's a Beach workshops. The schedule provides the date, city, time, and availability for each workshop. After finding an available workshop that's convenient, they can simply click on "Enroll Online Now," which will open the "Account Log On" page. (Members must be registered to view their account before they can utilize the online registration option.) After logging on, they simply complete the form and click the "Register" button. If everything was completed properly, a personalized "Thank You" screen will appear confirming registration and the date and time of the workshop selected. PERSI will automatically send the member a confirmation email within a few minutes. *You may want to remind your employees that the box acknowledging they read and understood the cancellation fee policy must be checked before registration can be finalized.*

Each registrant will be contacted prior to the workshop to confirm attendance. At that time, specific location information will be provided. Questions about the workshops and/or online registration should be directed to PERSI via email at workshops@persi.idaho.gov. Members who don't have Internet access/email can call PERSI at (208) 334-3365 from the Boise area or toll-free at 1(800) 451-8228 from elsewhere in Idaho to register for a workshop. PERSI is eager to help your employees learn how to develop a retirement strategy that works for them.

Notes

Tell your employees about the **FREE** Money Matters workshop hosted by the Coalition for Financial Literacy — with PERSI participation — on April 18, 2008 from 8:30 a.m. to noon at the Nampa Civic Center (311 Third St. South, Nampa). Have your employees call (208) 378-0200 ext. 751 to register. A continental breakfast will be provided.

PERSI Answer Center Manager [Judy Aitken](#) was named one of the *Idaho Business Review's* Women of the Year. An awards ceremony will take place at the Boise Centre on the Grove on March 13th.

[Joanna Guilfoy](#) has taken the role of general counsel for PERSI, replacing Brad Goodsell who left last fall. She came to PERSI from the Department of Administration.

Management Assistant [Joanne Ax](#) is retiring from PERSI after almost 17 years. [Cheri Campbell](#) has been hired to fill the position. She came to PERSI from the private sector.